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Letter dated 11 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following information:

At 1145 hours local time on 5 October 2012, the Turkish Army fired artillery shells from Turkish territory at a military barracks in Tall Abyad, Raqqah, injuring two soldiers, one of whom is a lieutenant. Exercising maximum self-restraint, the Syrian armed forces did not return fire in response to this provocative action.

At 2000 hours local time on 6 October 2012, terrorists launched an armed attack against law enforcement personnel in Tall Abyad, while the Turkish Army simultaneously fired artillery shells towards Syrian territory, wounding two members of the law enforcement forces, one of whom is an officer.

This unprovoked aggression by the Turkish Government, in the face of which the Syrian authorities have exercised maximum self-restraint and refrained from responding in kind, leads us to wonder what are the real motives behind such conduct. We wonder whether the Turkish Government has decided to go beyond providing shelter, training and logistical support for the armed terrorist groups that are operating from its territory and is now directly providing them with military support and cover.

In drawing the attention of Security Council members to this dangerous regional matter, which threatens international peace and security, the Syrian Government hopes that the Council will shoulder its responsibilities by halting Turkey's violations and provocative actions towards Syria, in order to avoid creating conditions that would allow the armed terrorist groups that are active in areas along the Syrian-Turkish border to raise tensions and push things out of control by exploiting the military operations in Idlib governorate, along the countries' western border. Action by the Council would also avoid any potential fallout from clashes with terrorist groups, which are active on both sides of the border and receive logistical support from within Turkish territory, and avert the possibility of Turkish forces firing artillery shells at Syrian military positions in that area. The Syrian Arab Republic has thus far exercised self-restraint and refrained from responding to Turkish artillery bombardment. The Government would like to express its willingness to discuss the establishment of a Syrian-Turkish committee that would consider a mechanism to control the security situation on both sides of the border, while respecting the national sovereignty of both countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated to Security Council members and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative